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Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. S.W. Washington DC 20554



Jeffrey Martin Joyce A Martin 1924 Mt Powell Ct Antioch, CA 94531-8355

Michael Powell, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. S.W Washington D.C 20554

RE: Uphold the interests of American citizens and our democracy!

Dear Mr. Powell,

As concerned U.S. citizens and taxpayers, we are deeply disturbed at a recent District of Columbia Court of Appeals decision overturning one of the country's last-remaining regulatory protections against media monopoly, and ordering the review of another. We strongly urge that the FCC fulfill its mission to protect the public interest by appealing these rulings.

The court overturned the rule that had prevented one company from owning both television stations and cable franchises in a single market. The court claimed that the increased number of TV stations today and the competition from the proliferation of new services like satellite TV make the rule outdated and unnecessary to protect diversity. The court also ordered that the FCC either justify or rewrite the rule that bars a company from owning television stations which reach more than 35 percent of U.S. households, stating that as is, the rule is arbitrary and illegal.

The station ownership cap has been much revised since the 1940s, when networks could only own three stations apiece. The numerical limit was increased a number of times over the years and finally eliminated by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which allowed an etwork to own enough stations to reach 35 percent of the audience.

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Don Strachan P.O. Box 1066 Middletown, CA 95461

Michael Powell, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. S.W. Washington DC 20554

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Most sincerely, leader

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Karen Lind 229 Ogden **Ave.** Jersey City, NJ **07307** 

Michael Powell, Chairman Federal Communications Commission **445** 12th St. S.W. Washington DC **20554** 

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Karen Lind

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David Zeff
78 Terrace Ave.
Daly City, CA 94015-3430

Michael Powell. Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. S.W. Washington DC 20554

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David Zeff

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C. Crarner Box 84 Clearwater. FL 33757-0084





Michael Powell, Chairman Federal Communications Commission **445** 12th St. S.W. Washington DC 20554 RECEIVED & INSPECTED I

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Craig S. Cramer Box 84 Clearwater, FL 33757-0084

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Most sincerely,

taig S. Cramer

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Michael Powell, Charman F.C.C. 445 12m St. S.W. washington DC 20554

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Helen Weber 2538 Warren Ave. N. Seattle. WA 98109

Michael Powell, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. S.W. Washington DC 20554

RE: Uphold the interests of American citizens and our democracy!

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Most sincerely,

Helen Weber

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Hilde Lehmann 2028 Guizot San Diego, CA 92107

Michael Powell. Chairman Federal Communications Commission **435** 12th St. S.W. Washington DC 20554

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Hilde Lehmann

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Sylvia Wolf
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10355 Cheviot Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Michael Powell, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 i 2th St. **\$.W.** Washington DC **20554** 

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**Michael** Powell Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. SW

Washington DC 20554

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Summer A. Shafer 24 Morning View Drive Newport Coast, CA 92657

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Summer A. Shafer

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Catherine Miller P.O. **Box** 577 Garberville, CA 95542

Michael Powell, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. S.W. Washington DC 20554

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Most sincerely. Nille

Catherine Miller

Carolina C. Bagnarol 542 Hillside Road Emerald Hills, CA 94062



Michael Powell, Chairman Federal Communications Comission 445 12th Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

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Carolina Bagnarol 542 Hillside Rd. Emerald Hills, CA 94062

Michael Powell, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. S.W. Washington DC 20554

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Carolina Bagnarol

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Michael Powell Chairman Federal Commonications Commission 445 12th St. Sw. FCC-MAILFICOM 205 SH PRECEIVED & INSPECTED MAY 1 3 2007

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Trisha Benton 12646 Balte Rd. Ocean City, MD

Trisha Benton 12646 Balte Rd. Ocean City, MD 21842

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Most sincerely, Trisha Benton ento

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Michael Pawell, Chairman, Dederal Communications Carriages, 445 12th St Sw Washington WC 20554

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Linda Kapfer 220 E Jackson St. Memphis, MO 63555

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Dear Mr. Powell,

As a concerned U.S. citizen and taxpayer, I am deeply disturbed at a recent District of Columbia Court of Appeals decision overturning one of the country's last-remaining regulatory protections against media monopoly, and ordering the review of another. I strongly urge that the FCC fulfill its mission to protect the public interest by appealing these rulings.

The court overturned the rule that had prevented one company from owning both television stations and cable franchises in a single market. The court claimed that the increased number of TV stations today and the competition from the proliferation of new services like satellite TV make the rule outdated and unnecessary to protect diversity. The **court** also ordered that the FCC either justify or rewrite the rule that bars a company from owning television stations which reach more than 35 percent of U.S. households, stating that as is, the rule is arbitrary and illegal.

The station ownership cap has been much revised since the 1940s, when networks could only own three stations apiece. The numerical limit was increased a number of times over the years and finally eliminated by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which allowed a network to own enough stations to reach 35 percent of the audience.

Currently, among broadcast TV markets, one-seventh are monopolies, one-quarter are duopolies, one-halfare tight oligopolies, and the rest are moderately concentrated. While the number of TV stations increased from 952 to 1,678 between 1975 and 2000, the number of station owners has actually declined from 543 to 360 in the same period. If the Court of Appeals rulings are allowed to stand, media diversity will decline even more sharply, as large media corporations gobble each other up and move closer to monopoly status in many large markets.

I urge you to appeal the Court of Appeals decision overturning the television-cable crossownership rule to the Supreme Court. I also urge that the FCC vigorously defend the 35 percent television ownership cap by gathering and presenting the ample evidence available that this minimal safeguard is essential. The FCC's chief responsibility is to uphold the interests of the American people, as taxpayers, consumers, and citizens of a democracy. We depend on you to prevent further serious erosion of diversity in the media upon which all Americans depend for the information we need to make our democracy work. We need democratic, diverse and decentralized media. Please fulfill your responsibility to preserve it.

Most sincerely,
Linda Kapfer